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1848

## c.2 MEREDITH TOWN REPORTS.

**SELECTMEN'S REPORT,**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1849.

The Selectmen charge themselves with the following items,  
viz:—

Cash, Collector's lists, notes, bills, &c., reported by the Auditors, March 8, 1848,	\$701.28
Assessment of State tax,	558.48
“ “ County tax,	923.59
“ “ School tax,	1225.96
“ “ Town tax,	2080.00
“ “ Road tax,	1144.00
Literary fund received July, 1848,	93.51
Cash for license to circus companies,	40.00
Cash returned by the Superintending School Com.,	3.00
Cash received of the County,	168.00
Cash borrowed of Ira Woodman,	100.00
Cash borrowed of Richard Davis,	200.00
Cash borrowed of Thomas Eastman,	100.00
Cash received of the State for division of lands,	98.42
Cash received of Belknap County Bank, borrowed,	628.82
Cash received of J. T. Coffin, interest on surplus money,	352.65
	<b>\$8417.71</b>

Which is accounted for as follows, viz:—

Paid for external poor for the past year—	
Paid the town of Epping for the support of Chase Pike,	\$7.00
“ Thos. M. Brier for taking care of Levi Bean,	5.00
“ Sally Watson's bill for taking care of Caroline Kelly and child,	4.85
“ Mrs. Moulton for taking care of Mrs. Pickering,	2.00
“ Mrs. Sally Gile for taking care of Mrs. Pickering in her last sickness,	31.12
“ C. Parker's bill for expense of journey to Great Falls on account of pauper,	8.50
“ town of Freedom bill for support of Sally Rowe,	40.00
“ Jas. Gordon's bill for support of a child of C. T. Chattle,	1.50
“ C. Parker's bill of journey to Northfield on ac- count of pauper,	3.00

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Paid Betsey Gale's bill for taking care of Mrs. Currier,	6.50
" D. S. Doe's bill for doctoring Widow Wadleigh,	4.00
" for the support of Simeon Taylor's family,	49.07
" Mrs. Tabitha Downing,	1.00
" G. W. Garland's bill for doctoring Mrs. Quimby,	1.00
" Polly Fogg's bill for the support of Joseph Fogg in 1847,	6.25
" John Roberts for the support of Sally Bickford in 1847,	13.00
" Simeon Pottle to purchase a cow,	10.00
" Dr. Dana's bill for doctoring Mrs. Taylor in 1844,	5.25
" Bean & Noyes bill for necessities for R. Bryant,	.60
" Polly Fogg's bill for the support of Joseph Fogg,	26.00
" Anna Smith's bill for work at Saml. P. Sanborn's,	7.00
" Samuel P. Sanborn,	3.00
" J. Dockham, jr. bill for necessities for R. Bryant,	3.20
" Madison Chase's bill for coffin for R. Bryant,	2.00
" Erastus Prescott's bill for work at S. P. Sanborn's,	46.00
" B. B. Rollin's bill for necessities for R. Bryant,	1.75
" T. H. Holland's bill of journey to Freedom on ac- count of Sally Rowe,	7.75
" Town of Freedom for the support of Sally Rowe,	9.20
" McLovejoy's bill for the support of Betsey Lovejoy,	18.00
" J. P. Huntress's bill for work at S. P. Sanborn's,	5.41
" J. M. & C. S. Prescott's bill for shoes &c. for paupers,	4.28
" Ebenezer S. Robinson, for burying ground,	1.50
" Henry Adam's bill for taking care of Thos. Dow,	7.50
" J. W. Lang's bill for necessities for paupers,	12.19
" J. V. Barron's bill for " " "	15.05
" Noyes & Gilman's bill " " "	17.64
" John Sanborn's bill for doctoring " "	50.00
" R. E. Merrill's bill for " " "	35.00
" Jeremiah Smith's bill " " "	19.29
" C. W. & R. K. Parker's bill of necessities for paupers,	32.05
" Joseph Knowles's bill for doctoring paupers,	40.00
" Charles Payne's bill for the support of H. Currier,	10.70
" J. Neal, jr. bill of wood for Mrs. Farrar,	2.00
" J. B. Swain's for necessities for Wid. Wadleigh,	8.25
" E. Bickford's bill of necessities for J. Crockett,	10.84
" Warren L. Glidden's bill for digging grave,	2.00
" John L. Glidden's bill of coffin for J. Crockett,	2.50
" Moses G. Pumer's bill of necessities on town farm,	186.65
" Ephraim Mallard's bill of coffin,	4.00
" Josiah Wadleigh's bill of wood for Mrs. Farrar,	7.00

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\$797.39



## Paid current expenses as follows:—

Paid Butterfield & Hill's bill for printing,	\$28.3.
" S. C. Lyford on execution,	40.23
" Belknap County Institute,	12.00
" Belknap County Fire Insurance,	5.85
" J. P. Pitman's bill for window glass,	2.75
" State tax,	537.00
" County tax,	888.07
" David Y. Smith's bill witness,	2.50
" Charles Parker balance due him in March, 1848,	4.67
" A. B. Eastman's bill for stationery,	.55
" N. Edgerly for recording,	.50
" E. S. Lawrence for copies,	2.25
" S. J. Pitman's bill as witness,	3.84
" T. H. Holland's bill for expenses of journey to Sanbornton,	1.00
" Capt. Wadleigh's bill of military,	40.00
" Capt. Rollin's " "	56.50
" Capt. Grant's " "	48.00
" Capt. Swain's " "	53.50
" Capt. Hersey's " "	13.00
" Staff Officer's " "	2.50
" T. H. Holland's bill for stationery,	.83
" Giles Leach's bill Superintending School Com.,	15.00
" J. K. Young's " " " "	15.00
" S. J. Pitman's " " " "	15.00
" Stephen J. Pitman's bill as Town Clerk,	19.00
" Ebenezer Steven's bill as Constable,	1.00
" C. Parker's bill for boarding selectmen,	20.89
" Freeman S. Pitman's bill for boarding selectmen,	33.40
" Isaac Farrar's bill of abatements in 1843,	25.89
" " " " " 1844,	53.80
" Isaac Farrar for collecting in 1843 and 1844,	21.64
" Taylor L. Grant's bill of abatements in 1846,	3.88
" " " " " 1847,	9.58
" " " " " 1848,	5.21
" Wm. Pike's bill for repairing town house and boarding selectmen,	27.66
" Edward Chase's bill as witness,	1.84
" S. W. Mead's bill of abatements in 1846,	3.86
" " " " collection 1846,	16.96
" " " " abatements 1847,	45.98
" " " " collection 1847,	35.42
" Freeman S. Pitman's bill of abatements in 1848,	40.47
" " " " collection 1848,	40.00
" T. Wentworth's bill for taking deposition,	3.07
" Edmund C. Hodgdon witness fees,	6.60
" A. B. Eastman's bill of journey to Lowell,	7.50
" " " " " Alexandria,	2.50

Paid John G. Robinson's bill of abatements in 1841,	7.82
" " " " " 1842,	7.98
" " " " collection 1842,	1.00
" Hazen Marston's bill of balance due,	3.00
" Charles Parker's bill of services as selectman,	81.50
" Abel B. Eastman's " " "	77.00
" Thos. H. Holland's " "	81.50
" Harrison Messer's bill as constable,	1.00
" J. Ela's bill of abatement,	2.47
" Gurriel Corliss's bill for boarding selectmen,	8.09
abatement of taxes of deceased persons,	5.49
" A. B. Eastman for balance due him March 8, 1848,	66.38
" T. H. Holland " " " " "	140.80
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	\$2698.98

### PAID FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Richard Hodsdon award,	\$36.50
" John Lane's bill for breaking road,	2.00
" Charles Smith's bill for work on road,	6.00
" John G. Robinson's bill for work on road,	10.00
" John M. Smith's " " "	3.44
" Abraham Drake's bill for making road,	422.73
" Dana Woodman's bill as road agent,	15.00
" Jeremiah M. Smith's bill for breaking road,	1.00
" C. W. Parker award by Road Commissioners,	12.00
" John S. Dolloff award,	55.00
" Thomas D. Veasey award,	100.00
" John C. Gove award,	10.00
" Daniel P. Smith award,	10.00
" Henry O. Bagley, award,	300.00
" bill for breaking the Plumer road,	10.50
" Wm. M. Edgerly bill for plank,	2.62
" D. P. Hatch & H. Swain's bill for breaking road,	8.85
" N. B. Wadleigh's bill for plank,	44.35
" Moses P. Piper's bill for plank,	2.45
" Thomas D. Veasey's bill for plank and timber,	6.69
" J. Bickford's bill for labor on neck road in 1846,	1.00
" Simeon Hatch award,	125.00
" David P. Hatch award,	100.00
" John C. Hobart award,	90.00
" N. Leavitt's bill for work on road,	3.82
" Samuel T. Cram's bill for work on road,	9.00
" Daniel Smith's bill for plank,	1.20
" R. M. Nichols's bill for plank,	1.08
" Samuel Leavitt, jr., bill for plank,	16.38
" Samuel B. Cram's bill for making the Ladd road,	130.00

Paid Samuel Hall's bill for repairing bridge,	5.00
" Richard Neal's bill for breaking road,	6.50
" Samuel T. Cram's bill for breaking road,	5.00
" John Batchelder's bill for repairing road,	1.90
" Fernal & Steven's bill for blacksmith's work,	1.96
" Eleazer Young's bill for surveying,	2.00
" Senaca A. Ladd's bill for plank and powder,	2.61
" J. C. Wadleigh's bill for work on road,	3.75
" " " " breaking road,	4.30
" David P. Hatch's bill for plank,	10.62
" bill for repairing road to New Hampton,	50.34
" bill for repairing J. Plumer road,	22.45
" A. B. Eastman's bill for repairing J. Plumer road,	5.00
" Elias Glidden's bill for plank and boards,	9.75
" David Plumer's bill for plank,	.40
" Cole, Davis & Co's. bill for plank,	160.11
" Ebenezer's L. Smith's bill for work on road,	1.40
" Joseph T. Gilman's bill for work on lake bridge,	2.50
" Jeremiah Marston's " " " "	2.50
" John Swain's " " " "	7.50
" Andrew Pickering's " " " "	12.00
" Hugh Blaisdell's " " " "	6.25
" Wilder & Blaisdell's " " " "	3.45
" Charles Smith's " " " "	7.79
" Sam'l S. Blaisdell bill for breaking road,	1.00
" Isaac Farrar's bill damage to Hodson farm,	5.33
" Lorenzo D. Dolloff's bill for plank,	4.51
" Stephen Kimball's bill for plank,	2.08
" Jesse Dolloff Jr's. bill for plank,	4.84
" David H. Pitman's bill for plank,	3.60
" Simeon Wadleigh's bill for work on road,	5.00
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	\$1898.05

### RECAPITULATION.

Paid out on account of Schools,	\$1168.12
" out on account of Poor,	797.39
" Town Expenses,	2698.98
" for Roads and Bridges,	1898.05
" Parsonage Funds,	95.20
" for County Paupers,	294.31
Collector's lists and notes on hand,	1175.22
Paid J. T. Coffin on note held against town,	451.07
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	\$8578.34



<i>Brought forward</i>	\$8578.34
Deduct the amount which they charge themselves with,	\$417.71
Leaving a balance due the selectmen of	\$160.63—\$8578.34
Respectfully subscribed by	

CHARLES PARKER, } *Selectmen*  
 ABEL B. EASTMAN, } *of*  
 THOS. H. HOLLAND, } *Meredith.*

The undersigned having examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen, find them correctly cast and well vouched.

JEREMIAH ELKINS,  
 NOAH PEASE.  
 R. E. MERRILL.

March 9th, 1849.

### LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Due J. T Coffin, fund agent for money borrowed,	128.75
" The several religious societies,	190.40
" Moses G. Plumer,	369.82
" John G. Robinson for money borrowed,	100.00
" Ira Woodman for money borrowed,	100.00
" Richard Davis for money borrowed,	200.00
" Thomas Eastman for money borrowed,	100.00
" Belknap County Bank for money borrowed,	650.00
" the Selectmen,	160.63
" H. O. Bagley, for award,	280.00
	<u>\$2279.60</u>

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE DUE THE TOWN.

Due from the County for the support of paupers at the town farm, about	75.00
Due from the County for amount paid for external paupers,	294.31
Collector's lists and notes on hand,	1175.22
	<u>\$1544.53</u>
Balance against the town,	\$735.07

## SURPLUS MONEY.

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The Agent to receive and loan the same would report as follows:

Received from State Treasurer for the use of the town \$7439.85

Which has been disposed of as follows:

Paid for assessments on railroad stock,	6180.50
There is now due the town on notes,	1220.78
Advanced Selectmen for interest due before Mar. 1, '48,	28.15
Paid in part of costs vs. J. P. Cram, 9.99. Cash on hand, 43,	10.42
	\$7439.85

There is due the town interest on notes amounting to 211.78, not including the interest due from the town on their note of \$547, one year. The Agent has been compelled to take possession of property mortgaged by Jona. P. Cram, and the same is foreclosed to the town for \$236 and cost. And he now asks the town what disposition shall be made of it. The balance of the money he believes to be perfectly good.

On the subscription to Railroad stock by the town for

	\$10,000.00
He has paid from the surplus money,	6180.50
Paid from money received of J. G. Robinson, Ag't,	1668.50
And there has been paid by J. G. Robinson Ag't,	400.00
	8,249.00

Leaving a balance now due of \$1,751.00 and which the Railroad Company are much in want of.

JOHN T. COFFIN, *Agent of Surplus Money.*

March 9, 1849.

## OVERSEER'S REPORT

### OF AFFAIRS AT THE ALMS HOUSE.

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#### INVOICE OF PROPERTY.

2 oxen, \$100; 5 cows, 105,	\$205.00
20 sheep, 40; 3 shotes, 45,	85.00
12 tons of hay, 120; 80 bushels corn, 80,	200.00
5 bushels wheat, 7.50; 10 bushels of oats, 5,	12.50
16 bushels beans, 24; 200 bushels potatoes, 80,	104.00
36 lbs. tallow, 3.60; 114 lbs. fresh meat, 9.12,	12.72
143 lbs. bacon, 14.30; apple-sauce and barrel, 3,	17.30
44 lbs. dried apple, 2.20; 100 lbs lard, 10,	12.20

55 cords of wood,	55.00
2 bbls. vinegar, 8; 51 lbs. butter, 9,	17.00
150 lbs. cheese, 12; 1 1-2 bushels onions, 1,50,	13.50
1 bbl. soap and two barrels, 4,	4.00
600 lbs. pork 75; 450 lbs. beef, 22,50,	97.50
9 dozen tallow candles, 2,	2.00
1-2 bbl. flour 3,50; 1 bushel peas, 2,	5.50
Coarse and fine salt,	1.25
Stone drag,	2.00
Sole and upper leather,	1.75
Lumber at the mill and at the house,	40.00
1 bushel beets and 3 bushels turnips,	1.00
3 lbs. stocking yarn,	2.25
15 rods stone wall,	16.00
30 rods fence,	7.50
Betterments on buildings,	20.00
Amount of farming tools, beds, bedding, clothing, household furniture &c.	728.38
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	1663.35

The Overseers of the poor find the property at the Alms House, March 1st, 1848, to have been appraised at	\$1956.33
Due from the County,	97,50
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	2053.83
The amount at the alms house March 1st, 1849,	1663,35
Due from the county,	75.00
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	1738.35
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Ballance,	315.48

Amount due the superintendent March 1st, 1849,	369.82
Interest on the purchase money,	99.00
Paid for necessities at the Alms House,	194.25
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	660,07

Received of the county for the support of pau- pers on the town farm,	168.00
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	492.07

CHARLES PARKER, }  
 ABEL B. EASTMAN, } Overseers of the Poor.  
 THOS. H. HOLLAND, }



# Names and Ages of Persons at the Alms House, and who have their support therefrom.

MALES.		FEMALES	
Humphrey Eaton,	69	Lydia Griffin,	69
John Haven,	58	Susan Edgerly,	58
David Clough,	42	Hannah Smith,	58
John Tilton,	52	Olive Hill,	39
Joseph Batchelder,	25	Rhoda Farrar,	51
		Harriet Shepherd,	39
		Harriet Merrill,	19
		Elvira Quimby,	27
		Sally Rowe,	67
		Hannah Sanborn,	39
		Mrs. Currier,	75

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

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The pilgrim fathers of New England were mostly men of sound learning, distinguished wisdom, and eminent virtue. With minds deeply imbued with a love of *liberty* as well as religion; and gifted with a far-sighted vision to perceive the means to promote public and social happiness, they seized the noble idea of *educating the entire rising generation*. And almost as soon as they planted their foot on Plymouth rock they established the system of "free schools." And among the first enactments of the infant colonies of New England we find provisions made for primary education. Among the earliest records of Boston (1635) is the vote "that our brother Philemon Portmont be entreated to become school-master for teaching and nurturing our children with us."

Nor were the first settlers of our own State, perhaps, behind her sister States of New England, in making provisions for popular education. It is indeed a matter of record in respect to some colonies to our State, that they brought the school-master with them. And since nineteen-twentieths, as it is estimated, of our entire population, receive all their education at the district school, it is scarcely possible to place to high an estimate upon our system of popular education. It was designed by our fathers to be the nursery of knowledge, patriotism and virtue. And none of the sons of the pilgrims at least need arguments to convince them that the free school system—educating the mass, had had an important agency in making New England what it is.

There is reason to believe that there has never been more interest in primary education in New Hampshire than during the last two or three years. The enactments of our Legislatures; the conventions to promote the interests of education; the Common School Associations in some sections of our State, and the Teacher's Institutes, all indicate that much of the spirit of the fathers has come down to their sons.

The amount of School money raised in the State, as appears from the report of the State Commissioner during the year 1848, was \$147,744.82.

Whole number of districts in the State,	2,132
Number of Scholars in the Winter Schools,	73,840
Average attendance in the Winter Schools,	58,058

Number of scholars in the Summer Schools,	59,237
Average attendance in the Summer Schools,	46,011
Average length of Winter Schools, in weeks,	9 1-2
Average length of Summer Schools, in weeks,	8 3-5
Average wages of male teachers per month exclusive of board,	13,56
Average wages of female teachers per month exclusive of board,	5,59
The School money in Meredith for the year 1848 was as follows :	
Interest on School Fund,	\$256,81
Assessed,	938,35

Total, \$1,195.16

This has been divided among the several district as follows :

DISTRICT NUMBER 1.—235.76	DISTRICT NUMBER 12.—28.48
“ “ 2.—97.52	“ “ 13.—23.13
“ “ 3.—70.71	“ “ 14.—19.05
“ “ 4.—39.67	“ “ 15.—134.78
“ “ 5.—31.68	“ “ 16.—55.56
“ “ 6.—34.98	“ “ 17.—27.39
“ “ 7.—58.78	“ “ 18.—69.70
“ “ 8.—32.68	“ “ 19.—28.32
“ “ 9.—25.51	“ “ 20.—43.73
“ “ 10.—38.08	“ “ 21.—16.96
“ “ 11.—34.36	“ “ 22.— 8.41

There have been employed the last year in the summer schools, 18 female teachers. In the winter schools, 5 female and 12 male teachers. The whole number of scholars in the winter schools, 595. Average in the winter schools, 441. The whole number in summer schools, 615. The average number in summer, 441. The aggregate of longest schools in any district in summer and winter, 44 weeks. The shortest for the year in any district, 6 weeks. The highest wages paid to any male teacher exclusive of board, \$20 per month. The lowest \$11., Average paid to male teachers, \$15. Highest wages paid to female teachers exclusive of board, \$2 per week. Lowest, 7 shillings. Average wages paid to female teachers in town, 9 shillings per week.

The Superintending School Committee, in the discharge of their duties, have performed more than the usual amount of labor the last year. They have had several meetings for the examination of teachers. They have also attended to a large number of private examinations. They have made about *seventy* visits to the schools. They have spent considerable time in attending to an examination of school books, that they might be prepared to form a decision in respect to the best books and recommend them accordingly.

We shall not, for several reasons, call your attention in this



report to each district separately. We did this the last year. We have also in this report so many suggestions we are desirous of making, that our limits would not permit us to do it; and last, though not the least, there has been disturbance in so large a number of our schools in relation to which, in some cases, we have not been sufficiently informed to do justice to the parties concerned, so that we choose at this time rather to urge wrongdoers to do so no more than to attempt to decide who they are.

While in the old world kings have been dethroned and revolution has followed revolution, the good people of Meredith have caught the spirit of the age; and a desire of change has been manifest even here. One teacher has been called to give place to another; some of their own accord have abdicated their office, but most have been compelled to do so by the will of the people. During the past winter, in one Division of our town, *three* of the six districts changed their teachers, and in one school there were two changes.

In each of the other Divisions there was also a single change. So that *one-fourth* of the winter schools of the Town have changed teachers during the winter. This is deeply to be regretted. For, it need scarcely be said, very little improvement can be expected amid the agitation attending such changes.

The committee are however happy to be able to say, that we have had during the year some of the *very best* as well as the very poorest schools. Some teachers have been well qualified, and acquitted themselves nobly. Parents in those districts have cultivated harmony among themselves; reposed confidence in teachers; sustained them in necessary government, and the improvement of the scholars never has been more perceptible and satisfactory to your committee.

In very many of our schools the higher English branches have been introduced. Natural Philosophy, Chemeitry, Physiology and Algebra have become somewhat common studies, and surveying has in some cases been studied. The introduction of these studies would seem to indicate that the standard of education has risen in Town, and we think it is so. The committee have however feared that in some cases the primary branches were not completely mastered before the scholars were carried forward to the higher branches. And we state with reluctance that we fear it has been so with some teachers. As an indication of this we state that the reports of teachers to the Superintending School Committee, contain bad spelling. Two teachers write "*grammer*"—three "*schollar*"—and one writes "*aggreeably*." And some of these very teachers are remembered to have passed a very good examination in the higher English branches.—We earnestly recommend all teachers and scholars to look to this.

We would venture to suggest to prudential committees the importance of greater attention to the selection of teachers.—

An incompetent teacher may do immense harm. The *mind* is to be educated; and it is too valuable to be committed to the care of unskilful hands. The branches of knowledge important to be known by every person, are numerous; and there is no time to be lost under an incompetent teacher. Besides, a distaste to study may be created by such a teacher that may not for years if ever, be eradicated from the pupil's mind. We say then to prudential committees, exercise caution in selecting teachers. The cheapest teacher is often the dearest. Besides, those that are paid well in any employment will be most likely to be faithful to their trust. Engage not a teacher because he is your neighbor. Think not of "Kith or Kin" or party, or sect, but take time and find out where the very best teacher can be found, and early secure his services.

The committee would remind parents of the vast responsibilities resting upon them in respect to schools. It is for you to select your prudential committees. Attend the school meeting, and regardless of every thing beside, select the *very best* man in the whole district for that office. And look to all the arrangements that are made for the schools. Forget not the meeting or the hour. The object of that school meeting is one of pre-eminent importance.

Parents may greatly injure the usefulness of schools by speaking of the faults of teachers *before* their children and domestics. If the teacher has marked faults that are really injuring himself and the school, go in a spirit of kindness and converse with him. You may benefit both him and the school. But if parents talk of real or supposed faults in a teacher before their children, very likely an insurrection is set in motion; the usefulness of the school is at an end; the instructor is driven from his post, and the evils to that community cease not for years.

Parents in a district should have no divisions among themselves. Hundreds of schools every year on this account fail of accomplishing any good. There are parties—there is the "hill party"—and the "village party"—and the "river party," and "the party on the plain"—and the "up-street party"—and the "down-street party"—and other divisions still. The teacher selected and the measures proposed by one party, are opposed by the others. And a teacher going into a district where such divisions exist, will need more than the wisdom of Solomon to give satisfaction to all; and although he has taught with success elsewhere, he is now driven away in sadness and disgrace.

Parents may do great good by conversing with their children at home in respect to their studies, and by often visiting the school. Both the teacher and his pupils will ordinarily be excited to do their very best in the prospect of having an examination at the close of the school.

Parents may promote the interests of the school by having their children in readiness to attend at the *very first* of the school,

and from day to day in season. The children of some families lose weeks every year in consequence of the neglect of parents to do so.

Our confidence in the utility of properly managed Teachers' Institutes, is unabated. That at Meredith Bridge last autumn was attended somewhat more numerously from our town than that of the previous year. The Institute was scarcely a week in length, but was very satisfactory in its character. The lectures and instruction were mostly gratuitous so that only about half the sum voted at the last annual meeting, was called for. The object of the Teachers' Institute is to have distinguished model teachers give instruction in the "art of teaching." With this also are interspersed lectures calculated to throw light on the business in which the members of the Institute are about to engage. But almost everything good may be abused. So with the Teachers' Institute. If one has not before his attendance there, secured a good knowledge of the branches of education taught in the district school, but relies essentially upon the knowledge there acquired he will be unfit to teach.

He may offer himself as a teacher, fresh from the Institute, and this may help him obtain employment, but he is soon found to be incompetent. The object of Teachers' Institute is not so much to learn *what* as *how* to teach: And for this we are satisfied they are admirably fitted. They have made hundreds of teachers better than they otherwise would have been.

Institutes have been held during the year in different sections of our State; and about \$1000 expended in sustaining them.

We wish for a moment to call your attention to *government* in a school. We have fallen upon times, if not mistaken, in which there is a sad decline in this respect in the school as well as in the family. We have been pained in our visit to some schools to witness the absence of necessary discipline. We are far from recommending needless severity. Let the mildest means possible, be employed that will accomplish the object. But we would have order even though the teacher shall not "spare the rod." Learning first of all to govern himself, let every instructor maintain wholesome discipline. Some parents may think him cruel, if he punishes that "darling boy," but if no other means will answer than corporeal punishment, it is our opinion that it should be exercised.

We have a word to say in respect to school books. We are of opinion that changes should be unfrequent. We sympathise with those large families of moderate means upon whom the paying for necessary school books, is a considerable tax.

But as the husbandman gets the new plough and cultivator; and the mechanic the "tool" that is a manifest improvement, so we would change the old books for those which are better. The committee have examined with great care various reading books that have been put into their hands, and have come to the unan-



imous conclusion to recommend Town's series of reading books, as on the whole best adapted to our town schools.

We are constrained to call your attention a moment to our school houses. It is a matter of astonishment that no more attention has been paid to their location; to play grounds; to out buildings; and to their internal structure. They should be made inviting without; and within, pleasant and convenient. Regard should be had to the height of the seats. In some of our school houses, built within, a few years, the height of all the seats is the same—those for the child of *three* and those for the youth of nineteen who has come almost to the age and quite to the stature of a man!!

We call your attention to that part of the constitution of N. H. that requires the teacher of the district school to inculcate the principles of morality. That instrument says; "It shall be the duty of all persons in the instruction of the young, diligently to impress upon their minds the principles of piety and justice; a sacred regard to truth, love of country, humanity and benevolence; sobriety, industry and frugality; chastity, moderation, and temperance and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society; and to endeavor to lead them into a particular understanding of all such virtues to preserve, and perfect a republican government; to secure the blessings of liberty; and the tendency of the opposite virtues to degradation, ruin and slavery?"

So say the statutes formed by our fathers. They well understood the necessity of attending to man's moral as well as intellectual culture in order to maintain rational liberty. Instructors of youth are not to teach Sectarianism—they are not to teach their own *peculiar* views. Yet they are expected to be virtuous themselves; and to inculcate the importance of the virtues in their pupils.

It is well known that the practice is becoming somewhat common to employ female teachers in our winter as well as summer schools. Should this be encouraged? We think so; especially in districts having a small amount of school money, and but few scholars. The Commissioner of common schools in our State favors it. A late report of the Superintendent of common schools in Massachusetts says "that the comparative proportion of females to males as teachers in that State is yearly increasing; and he thinks that females are ordained by nature to be the companions and instructors of the young; and are better adapted by the gentleness of their disposition, and the vivacity of their affections for the sacred work of teaching and training the young than male teachers ever can be.

In closing our report we will take the liberty to urge upon the friends of education the importance of increasing efforts to promote the prosperity of our schools. As admirable as is our system of primary education, it has no selfmoving power. A wake-

ful vigilance; untiring efforts, and considerable expense are needed to promote the highest interests of primary education. But as great as is the expense, it is economy to do it. It is cheaper to support our schools, than to support ignorance and vice. Neglect your duty in this respect, for a single generation, and what a train of evils must follow. But let all do their duty in respect to the intellectual and moral improvement of the young, and our children and children's children; and generations following may find the land of our pilgrim fathers, happy New England still.

GILES LEACH,  
S. J. PITMAN,  
J. K. YOUNG.

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